

seized by the Phoenix Police Department Commercial Interdiction Unit.

Arizona law enforcement reports that powder and crack cocaine are readily available in the region's metropolitan areas. Arizona is a primary drug shipment corridor for movement of drugs from Mexico to the many areas of the United States. The more sophisticated, modern highway system of metropolitan Phoenix and the convenience of Phoenix's Sky Harbor International Airport make Phoenix an ideal drug transport city to other major cities around the country.

In an effort to battle the ever-increasing presence of drugs in our community, Arizona has been designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, or "HIDTA". This designation has provided law enforcement the ability to commit resources to respond to the drug trafficking problems in Arizona. Law enforcement agencies including the Phoenix and Tucson Police Departments, the Maricopa and Pinal County Sheriff's Departments, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety work in conjunction with the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the U.S. Customs Service to coordinate interdiction efforts.

These efforts have resulted in a 429% increase in methamphetamine arrests and a 52% increase in cocaine arrests in the last decade. Since 1992 alone, arrests for possession of dangerous drugs have doubled while arrests for the sale or manufacture of methamphetamine have increased 251%.

As evidenced by these figures, attempts to crack down on organized drug trafficking groups have been successful. Unfortunately, the increased attention on law enforcement has not been accompanied with an increased focus on our federal court system and the judges needed to prosecute and convict these drug offenders.

Arizona's justice system has continued to grow through the years while the number of judgeship appointments have remained the same. The last time the District of Arizona was granted additional permanent judgeships was 1978—twenty-one years ago! Chief Justice Broomfield has cited several factors to justify the need for an increase in permanent judgeships, including:

The large increase in criminal cases filed is permanent in nature. There has been an increase of 764 permanent federal law enforcement officers in Arizona, leading to a significant increase in caseloads and filings.

Since 1994 Arizona has added an additional 600 new border patrol agents which also have made a significant increase in caseloads and filings.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona (which contributes a major portion of the District Court caseload) continues to expand. Since 1978 the U.S. Attorney's Office has grown from 30 attorneys to 103, an increase of 243%. That office is now the 13th largest among the 94 districts; yet with the current complement of 8 judges, the Arizona District Court ranks 29th.

There has been a substantial population shift to the West and the Southwest in the last several decades. For example, the City of Phoenix is now the sixth largest city in the country, having grown from 106,818 in 1950 to 1,205,285 in 1997.

The District of Arizona criminal felony filings have increased by 10 percent since 1993. Currently, Arizona is ranked third in the nation for criminal felony filings. These filings range from possession of drugs with the intent to sell to violent criminal acts such as assault with a deadly weapon, and murder.

Along with the increase of criminal felony filings District of Arizona judges are burdened with a sharp increase in the number of cases. Each judge currently assigned to the District of Arizona has a caseload of roughly 834 cases, the fourth highest among the nation's 94 districts.

Arizona is a state which is growing significantly and it does not have the judicial system to keep up with its growth. Without a strong judicial system we will continue to have the imbalance that our judges are currently experiencing today.

For these reasons, I believe the three additional judgeships for the District of Arizona created by Mr. GOSS's amendment to H.R. 1501 are desperately needed to effectively address the abundant caseload, and more importantly the high number of criminal felony filings in Arizona.

PERSONAL STATEMENT TO JACQUELYN ISABEL SPINELLO ANDREWS AND JOSEPHINE CAROLYN ANDREWS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, there are times in our public careers when the obligations of office require us to forego the immediate interests and needs of those whom we love most. Because it is my duty to attend to our business here in the Capitol, I am unable to attend a special Father's Day celebration with my oldest daughter, Jacquelyn Isabel Spinello Andrews, at her kindergarten class (Mrs. Esler's class) at the Atlantic Avenue School in Haddon Heights, New Jersey. Six year olds do not readily understand the absence of their fathers at important events.

The pain of separation is further compounded by the fact that a voting session last week required me to miss an end of the year celebration for my youngest daughter, Josephine Carolyn Andrews, age 4, at the Beechwood School's pre-kindergarten class (Mrs. Rutkowski and Mrs. Provans). I hope that my children will understand that the exercise of duty does not negate the intense love I feel for them and pride my wife Camille and I draw from their lives and progress.

In the instance of Jacquelyn's Father's Day celebration, duty took on a special meaning, because we were debating proposals to protect her and all children from school violence like the nightmare parents around this country have felt too often in the last few years. My absence was necessary for me to support a cause in which I believe. But my absence should not confuse the fact that my beautiful children—God's greatest gift to me ever—are more important than any cause. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that my children and the children of

all who serve in public life will understand that our motivation is to provide our children and all children with a loving and supportive community free of violence. Although no gift can replace our presence with those we love, I hope that our legislative efforts produce the gifts of a community worthy of the sweetness and innocence of our children.

I thank my family for understanding that I must perform these duties and I reaffirm my love for Jacquelyn and Josie and their mother, in gratitude for the sacrifices they make.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR WALTER J. KEISKER, OF CAPE GIRARDEAU COUNTY, MISSOURI, IN CELEBRATION OF A CENTURY OF BLESSINGS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on July 9, 1999, Reverend Walter J. Keisker will celebrate his 100th birthday. As an active member of his community, Reverend Keisker is as well known in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri as many of the founding fathers of the towns of Jackson and Cape Girardeau.

Pastor Keisker started his life in 1899 on a farm four miles outside of Hillsboro, Missouri where his father ran a small creamery and, later, raised dairy herd and hogs. To this day, the Reverend remembers the words to "A Surrey With the Fringe on Top" because his family actually traveled in one.

The Reverend attended high school and junior college at St. Paul College in St. Louis, graduating in 1919. He then continued his education at Concordia Lutheran Seminary from which he graduated in 1923. He led his first parish at Trinity Church in Flat River, now Park Hills, Missouri where he devoted 15 years of service. In the fall of 1938 Pastor Keisker took on a new parish at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jackson, Missouri. He gave his parish his full attention for the next 30 years. As Pastor Keisker eased into retirement, he continued serving St. Paul Lutheran Church as a pastoral assistant from 1968 until 1984. The Reverend continued to be actively involved in the church until 1993 when he moved to the Lutheran Home in Cape Girardeau.

Reverend Keisker and the former Mae Fikuart of Farmington, Missouri, married and had two daughters, Ruth Illers of Jackson, Missouri, and Virginia Goodwin of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The Reverend and Mrs. Keisker had seven grandchildren and as of this spring, Pastor Keisker has ten great grandchildren. Mrs. Keisker passed away in 1992.

Because he believes that a pastor should be active in their communities as well as over his congregation, Pastor Keisker remains active today. He continues to be a member of the Cape Girardeau Historical Society and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, and he attends Circuit meetings and other events in his community.

When asked about his secret for longevity, Pastor Keisker gives the following pieces of